

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5613

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: LA, TH, JA, US

SUBJECT: YOMIURI INTERVIEW OF LAOTIAN PREMIER KAYSONE

SUMMARY: IN DAILY YOMIURI INTERVIEW PRINTED DECEMBER 18, LOATIAN PREMIER KAYSONE PHOMIVAN AGREED CONDITIONALLY TO DISCUSS BORDER PROBLEMS WITH BANGKOK, STRESSED LAO-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP, AND CHASTISED THE U.S. FOR UNILATERALLY CEASING TO "HELP HEAL WOUNDS OF WAR" AND GIVING SUPPORT TO REACTIONARY LAOS WHO FLED TO THAILAND. KAYSONE REFUSED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RELATIONS WITH "BROTHERS" IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. HE ALSO COMMENTED ON PROBLEMS OF BUILDING A NEW SOCIAL SYSTEM IN LAOS. WE ARE POUCHING FULL TEXT TO DEPARTMENT AND VIENTIANE. FOLLOWING COVERS INTERESTING POINTS ON FOREIGN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. KAYSONE SAID THAILAND AND LAOS ARE BROTHERS COUNTRIES BUT UNDER PRESSURE OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS, BANGKOK HAD CLOSED BORDER AND VIOLATED THE PEACE. NEVERTHELESS, KAYSONE SAID, "LPDR AGREES TO MEET AND DISCUSS THAI-LAO BORDER PROBLEMS WITH GOT, IF NECESSARY,BUT BEFORE ALL, THE GOT MUST GUARANTEE THAT NO INCIDENT LIKE THE RECENT ONE WILL OCCUR AGAIN ON THE BORDER."

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3. ON RELATIONS WITH JAPAN, KAYSONE LAUDED PAST AND EXPECTED

FUTURE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT, FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE NAM NGUM PROJECT. HE ADDED "JAPAN HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING A LASTING PEACE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION WHICH IS THREATENED BY AMERICAN MILITARY BASES."

4. AS FOR THE U.S., KAYSONE SAID, "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LPDR WILL KEEP GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH IT AND WISHES TO IMPROVE THE TIES, BUT WE REGRET THAT THE U.S. HAD UNILATERALLY DECIDED TO CUT OFF THE AID THAT THE LAO PEOPLE ARE IN EXTREME NEED OF. FURTHERMORE, THE U.S., WITH THAI REACTIONARIES, ARE HELPING THE LAO ULTRARIGHTIST REACTIONARIES WHO FLED TO THAILAND TO RETURN AND OPPOSE THE NATION'S INDEPENDENCE AND THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PEOPLE. THIS IS THE MAIN FACTOR WHICH

CAUSES THE RELATIONS BETWEEN LAOS AND THE U.S. TO DETERIORATE. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THAT RELATIONSHIP, I CONSIDER THAT THE U.S. SHOULD STOP HELPING THE LAO ULTRARIGHTIST REACTIONARIES WHO HAVE BEEN TIRED BY THE LAO PEOPLE, THAT THE U.S. SHOULD STOP INTERFERING INTO THE WORLD'S AFFAIRS, THAT THEY SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN HEALING THE WAR WOUNDS IN LAOS. IN DOING SO I BELIEVE THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAOS AND THE U.S. WILL IMPROVE CONSIDERABLY." HODGSON

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